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# Evans: Reduce Congressional Oversight of the CIA

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U.S. Rep. Thomas B. Evans Jr. wants to reduce congressional oversight of the Central Intelligence Agency to curb the leaking of secret information.

Evans wants to repeal a 1974 law that requires approval of any covert CIA operation by not only the president, but eight separate congressional committees.

Those committees, Evans says, include 163 congressmen assisted by 91 staff people. "There are just too many opportunities to leak (information)," Evans told the Wilmington Kiwanis Club yesterday at a Hotel du Pont luncheon.

Evans would like that oversight of the CIA reduced to a single committee of the House and Senate.

Evans also told the meeting national attention should be refocused from the abuses of the agency toward rebuilding the CIA staff's morale and ability to analyze information from abroad.

The United States needs "more than ever before a dependable and a reliable intelligence-gathering capability," Evans said.

While U.S. secrets turn up with increasing frequency in the national media, Evans said, "our adversaries operate in a closed huddle" and their secrets are not so easy to learn.

Evans said he had no complaint with CIA technology, which he claimed is "in great shape." But he said, "I believe we're sadly lacking in human terms."

The congressman contended the "human" factor was the critical deficiency in faulty intelligence operations recently in Korea and Iran. "We must improve on our analysis of data that comes into Washington, D.C.," Evans said. "Pictures just can't talk.... Human beings have to determine what's on the minds of other human beings."

Evans conceded the CIA has abused its power in some instances,

some, but I think the pendulum has swung too far," Evans asserted. He cited a private group in Washington that has made a practice of divulging names of American covert intelligence agents abroad and said there should be a law to prevent such exposures.

He called for more agents in the field to gather "human" intelligence, and said these agents must not fear their names will be publicized and their lives put in jeopardy.

"I think we can restore the morale of the Central Intelligence Agency, which is sadly lacking in esprit de corps," Evans said. "Without that esprit de corps, without the ability to exercise independent judgment — to dissent and tell people they think we should go in a different direction [than administration policy] — we don't have an intelligence operation."

A Kiwanis member, following up Evans' remarks, asked whether the congressman was worried about our intelligence-gathering capability in relation to the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT) now being considered by the Senate.

Evans said his two key questions on the treaty now are whether the U.S. can "verify what the Russians are doing" and whether its terms leave the U.S. in a strategically inferior position to the Soviets.

He said he still lacks answers to those questions and — even though the ratification decision is in the hands of the Senate, not the House — he intends to be "speaking out on these issues" as the treaty debate continues. Evans also said he was concerned about the effect the loss of CIA intelligence-gathering bases in Iran could have on treaty verification.

Answering other questioners, Evans said he was concerned about a growing leftist trend in Latin America, opposed to federal land-planning aimed at preventing further loss of U.S. farmland to development, in favor of a windfall profits tax on oil producers that would be used to seek alternative energy sources, and opposed to the creation of a U.S. Department of Education as a new and separate bureaucracy which could end up controlling school curricula.

One club member asked Evans if, notwithstanding the Carter administration's push for U.S. energy self-sufficiency, all diplomatic efforts had been exhausted to improve trade and curry favor with oil-producing nations other than Iran.

Evans said he was not at all impressed with the U.S. State Department's efforts to establish strong relationships in the Middle East.

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